

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/725,554

Examiner

Anabel M. Ton

Applicant(s)

CHEN, OWEN

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/17/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-5 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art cited does not anticipate individually nor teach in combination the driving circuit as taught in both claims 1 and 3 nor the driving circuit in combination with the structure and electrical connection to the structure as recited in claims 1 and 3. The following is considered to be allowable subject matter:

- a main body including an inner frame having a holding recess, and an outer frame having an opening; the outer frame being joined to the inner frame with the opening facing the holding recess; the main body having a display board, which allows light to travel through, and has signs adhered thereto; the display board having a light-passable plate disposed on a front thereof; the display board being disposed between the frames with an edge of the opening preventing it from falling out of the outer frame; the indicating board having reflective surfaces on both upper and lower edges thereof; the display board having holes formed on the upper edge thereof and facing correspondingly ones of a set of gaps formed in the inner frame; a driving circuit; the driving circuit having two power input terminals respectively connected to a first end of a first resistor and a first end of a second resistor; other ends of the resistors being electrically connected to a first and terminal of a semi-conductor switch; a

second terminal of the semi-conductor switch being connected to a first one of the power input terminals of the driving circuit, and a third terminal of the semi-conductor switch being connected to a combination of a resistor and a light-emitting device, which is connected to a second one of the power input terminals of the driving circuit at other end thereof; thus, said light-emitting board emits light, which then travels through the gaps of said inner frame and the holes of the display board, and finally travels outside through both the display board and the light-passable plate for making the signs of the board visible.

- a main body including an inner frame having a holding recess, and an outer frame having an opening; the outer frame being joined to the inner frame with the opening facing the holding recess; the main body having a display board, the display board being an Electro Luminate (E.L.) light emitting flat panel, which has terminals on an upper edge and a lower edge thereof, and upper and lower portions of the inner frame have electricity conducting bars disposed along them; the terminals of the E.L. light emitting flat panel being in electrical contact with corresponding ones of the electricity conducting bars; a driving element being connected to the E.L. light emitting flat panel for starting the same; and a driving circuit; the driving circuit having two power input terminals respectively connected to a first end of a first resistor and a first end of a second resistor; other ends of the resistors being electrically connected to a first terminal of a semi-conductor switch; a second terminal of the semi-conductor switch being connected to a first one of the power input terminals of the driving circuit, a third terminal of the semi-

conductor switch being connected to one of the electricity conducting bars, the other electricity conducting bar being connected to a second one of the power input terminals of the driving circuit.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anabel M. Ton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2382. The examiner can normally be reached on 08:00-16:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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